

Lucy Parsons Center

Agitating for Real Democracy

**3 Central Square
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 497-9934**

**Hours:
10am-7pm, Monday-Saturday
Closed Sunday**

Purpose

The Lucy Parsons Center was established to agitate for real democracy -- real freedom and equality. Most social structures currently existing in the world do not offer real democracy, but at best only pseudo-democracy and quasi-freedom, and at worst, starvation, brutal oppression, and death. Except for increasingly rare and isolated local communities, most current social arrangements do not allow all people to fulfill themselves optimally. Moreover, it is obvious to us that present world structures are visibly disintegrating around us. Yet it is completely unclear what will replace these structures.

The Lucy Parsons Center wants to help ensure that what comes next will be an improvement. To this end, we are dedicated to helping renew and rebuild genuinely democratic traditions, which secure community, power, freedom, justice, equality, fulfillment, health, and happiness for all peoples, while also securing the preservation of the earth with all its creatures.

History and Organization

The Lucy Parsons Center was founded on July 1, 1992. It is a successor organization to the Red Book Store, originally founded in 1971 and located on River Street in Cambridge until its move to Jamaica Plain in 1983. Red Book gave outstanding service to Boston's progressive community for more than 20 years, and many of its traditions, allies and experiences have been absorbed into the Lucy Parsons Center.

The Center is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 tax-exempt status. It is maintained entirely by volunteers. There is also a large number of long-standing supporters who connect us to the community, many of whom serve in an advisory capacity. The Center is an independent educational institution not affiliated with or beholden to any other individual, group, party, organization, or government.

Finances

The Lucy Parsons Center depends primarily on the sales of books, magazines, and other items for its income. Other important sources of income include:

- periodic funding appeals to individual donors by mail and phone
- fund-raising events (benefits lectures, dinners, etc.), and
- vigorous soliciting of book donations.

What the Center Has To Offer

Bookstore: We have a well-stocked bookstore covering all tendencies and debates on the left, plus a good supply of other materials for organizers -- posters, bumper-stickers, t-shirts, cards, pins, and music. There are many low-priced used and bargain books, as well as new titles, Spanish books, and children's books.

Magazine Rack: This is a major attraction of the Center. We carry over 200 magazines, newspapers, and journals from every wing of the progressive movement -- labor, ecology, women, media, gay & lesbian, African-American, Third World, orthodox left, plus alternative journals in history, sociology, political science, psychiatry, education, and philosophy, party papers, anarchism, syndicalism, counter culture, indigenous peoples, surrealists, everything. There is nothing like it anywhere in Boston. Come in and read -- an excellent way to stay abreast of what's happening.

Other Organizations' Newsletters: The Center receives, displays, and distributes (some free, some for sale,) dozens of newsletters from projects and organizations around Boston, New England, the Americas and the world. Soon to be displayed in special racks.

Occasional Lectures: We take advantage of the many outstanding activists in the Boston area, as well as visiting militants, to offer lectures on a wide range of issues of current relevance to building a new society. Watch for announcements.

Book Tables: We take progressive literature out into the community by setting up booktables and displays at conferences, demonstrations, and events around Boston. Call if you'd like a booktable at your event.

Book Launching Parties: We sponsor periodic launches of newly published books, with presentations by local authors.

Our Newsletter: This is published on an irregular basis, announcing lectures, upcoming events, demonstrations, and conferences, reviewing books, and reporting on the work of the Center.

Alternative Information File: We have a collection of folders containing published information about projects, organizations, events, and publications of relevance to activists in the movement. It is an excellent resource, soon to be made available to the public.

Prison Book Program: This is an independently organized project loosely associated with the Center whereby a group sends books to prisoners every Thursday evening. It originated as a Red Book project in the 1970s and continues to this day. Call for information.



Lucy Parsons, 1853-1942, is one of America's most notorious rebels. The Chicago police considered her "more dangerous than a thousand rioters." She was involved in the revolutionary elements of the labor movement for nearly seventy years, from 1873 when she and her husband (Albert Parsons) settled in Chicago from Texas, until her death in 1942. In 1883 she joined the International Working People's Association, and in 1905 helped found the Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies). She was active in the struggle for the 8-hour day in the late 1880s. She wrote essays on working women, tramps, disabled veterans, prisoners, racism, and workers, and published in such papers as *The Socialist*, *The Alarm*, *Freedom*, and *The Liberator*. After Albert Parsons was murdered by the State of Illinois in the Haymarket show trials, she toured the country tirelessly speaking in his defense, for free speech and other labor causes. And she kept this up for decades. Lucy Parsons is a woman whom history has forgotten. We are proud to keep her memory alive at the Lucy Parsons Center.

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Free Breaking

Newsletter of the Lucy Parsons Center

Project Notes — The Past Year at the Center

Eighteen months actually. We opened here on May 1, 1994. You may be wondering how we have fared. To put it briefly, we believe we have succeeded in reestablishing the project on a sound basis. Approximately 30 persons are now involved in the project in one way or another, and we continue to get new volunteers as people leave. We have managed to divide up the work in an equitable way; we have a normally functioning monthly steering committee meeting to give cooperative and democratic direction to the project; many more of us now have assumed responsibility for keeping the project alive; there have been steady improvements in the operation of the store; and so forth. Our cooperative endeavor seems to be pretty healthy therefore, at least as far as internal matters are concerned.

Sales however remain a little sluggish. Although we are becoming better known all the time, we still need to do a lot more promotion and increase our sales by roughly one third in order to be really healthy financially.

All in all though it has been a great period. We want to thank all of you once again for the tremendous support you have given us toward getting resettled in Central Square. We're looking forward to further improvements in the project and to many more years of service to Boston's progressive community.



Speakers Series

Since our last newsletter, we've had several successful lectures, discussions and book signings by authors, educators and activists here at the bookstore and at locations throughout the Cambridge/Boston community. The main purpose has been, and continues to be, to provide the surrounding community with a source of alternative perspectives from people typically given little, if any, space in mainstream arenas.

Noam Chomsky, author and professor of Linguistics at M.I.T., gave a benefit lecture this past May at the Arlington St. Church in Boston titled *Bringing the Third World Home*, about the fast-emerging domestic policies and politics of the Republican Right. **Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin**, civil rights activist with SNCC, member of the Black Panther Party, political prisoner, and community organizer, spoke at the store about his life, his politics, and his book *Anarchism and the Black Revolution*. **Barbara Brandt**, Somerville community activist, discussed her new book *Whole Life Economics: Revaluing Daily Life*, how the economy is determined, how this definition fails to value much of the work being done (by women and volunteers, for example), and real-life examples of alternative economic systems. **Joanna Kadi**, editor and grassroots community organizer on Palestinian self-determination and on ending violence against women, discussed the new book *Food for Our Grandmothers*, essays and poems by Arab-American and Arab-Canadian feminists. **Alexander Cockburn**, journalist and regular contributor to *The Nation* magazine, came to the Center to introduce his recent book *The Golden Age Is In Us: Journeys & Encounters*. It was a lively talk, mostly about his recent encounters with mass media, but also about his travels and his thoughts on current events.

Upcoming Speakers . . .

Beginning in October, we're happy to announce that we are cosponsoring a monthly Speakers Series in conjunction with the Central Square Public Library. In October, **John Ross**, journalist and author of *Rebellion from the Roots: Indian Uprising in Chiapas* spoke about the deepening political and economic crisis in Mexico. We've lined-up speakers for November and December, and have several possibilities for January 1996 and beyond. The events are free and open to the public and are held at the Central Sq. Library, 45 Pearl St. in Cambridge.

Shredding the Safety Net: The Destruction of the Welfare State,
with **Betty Reid Mandell and Florence Miller of Survivors, Inc.**

Saturday, November 11th, 2p.m.

Resistance and the Global Economy,
with **Tim Costello of the Commonwealth Institute**
and co-author of *Global Village, Global Pillage*.

Poetry! Poetry!! And . . . More Poetry!!!

The Lucy Parsons Center sponsors the **Links On The Chain** poetry series on Friday nights. Named from a song written by the late protest singer **Phil Ochs**, Links On The Chain devotes the first three Fridays of each month to "round-robin" style poetry swapping here at the bookstore. On the 4th Friday of each month, we move across the street to the Phoenix Coffeehouse, where we have an open-mike and a featured reader. The readings, whether at the bookstore or at the Phoenix Coffeehouse start at 8 p.m. Come share your work, or just listen. No cover charge. Call the bookstore (497-9934) for more information. We also recommend:

Stone Soup Poetry series, Mon. 8-11 p.m., T.T. the Bear's, 11 Brookline St., Camb. \$3 cover.

Open City Poetry reading, Tues. 8-11 p.m., Union Sq. Bistro, 16 Bow St., Somerville. No cover.

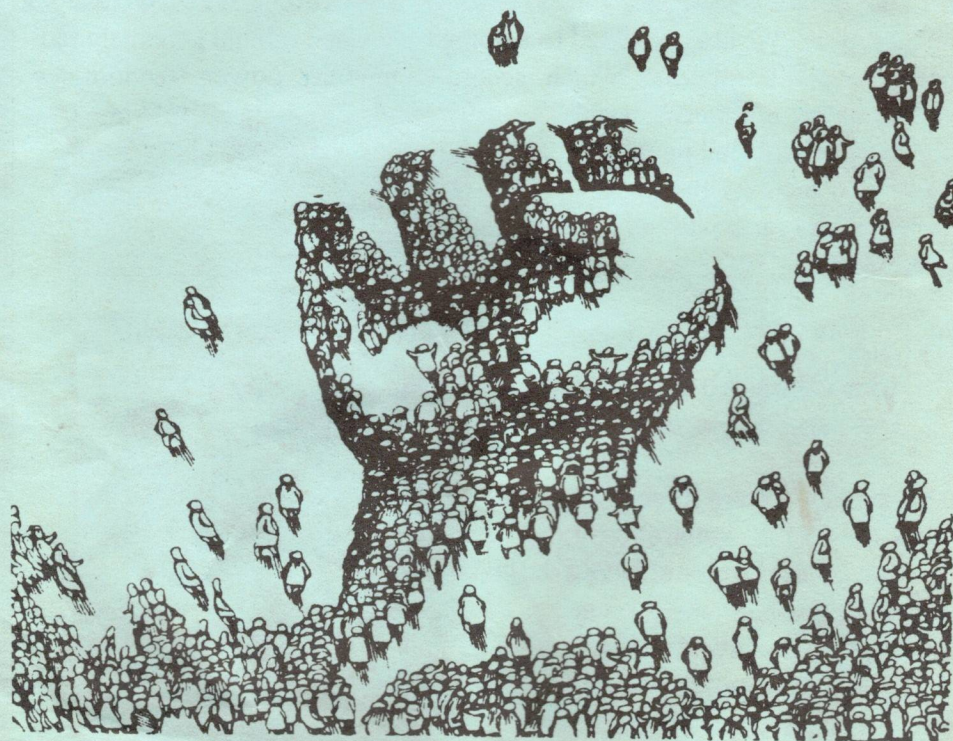
Boston Poetry Slam at the Cantab Lounge, Wed. 7 p.m. Central Sq., Camb., \$3 cover.

Naked City Coffeehouse, Thurs. 8:30 p.m., Old Camb Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave, Camb. \$3 cover.

Phoenix Coffeehouse Sunday Afternoon Poetry readings/featured readers, Central Sq., Sundays, 4 p.m. No cover.

Gypsy Children of the Night series at Booksellers Cafe, 1971 Mass. Ave, Porter Sq. Sundays, 7 p.m. \$3 cover.

Finally, when visiting our bookstore, ask for *The Boston Poet*, a monthly newsletter and listing of venues and events, plus interesting reading.





Book Notes

Our stock has been improving steadily. Our store is a good place to come to look for bargain radical books (that is, books that have been remaindered by the publisher) and for older used radical books (almost all of which are donated to us, although we do also buy at book sales and library sales). So far we have been doing pretty well getting newly published titles into the store (except for those from the standard radical publishers). We will be making a big effort though in the next few months to improve our stock of newly published titles.

Some current new titles of interest are: Charles Andrews, *Profit Fever*, *The Drive To Corporatize Health Care and How To Stop It*, Michael Parenti, *Against Empire*, Leonard Weinglass, *Race for Justice*, Mumia Abu-Jamal's *Fight Against the Death Penalty*, Immanuel Wallerstein, *After Liberalism*.

Some remainder titles we have in stock are: Paul Robinson, *The Freudian Left*; Wilhelm Reich, *Geza Roheim*, Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*, Alice Walker, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know*, Angela Davis, *Women, Culture, & Politics*, Carole Pateman and Elizabeth Gross, *Feminist Challenges*, Malcolm X, *Malcolm X Speaks*, Elaine Brown, *A Taste of Power*, Paul Mattick, *Marx and Keynes*.

Some rare used books we have are: Anthony Bimba, *The History of the American Working Class*, Sidney Lens, *Unrepentant Radical*, George Woodcock, *The Crystal Spirit: A Study of George Orwell*, George Lichtheim, *The Concept of Ideology and Other Essays*.

**DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING
AT LUCY'S**

Volunteers Needed

The Lucy Parsons Center is run entirely by a volunteer staff who does everything, from coordinating the speaker series and staffing the store, to bookkeeping, book tabling, grant writing and more. If you'd like to become involved a little or a lot — please call our volunteer coordinator. There are many ways to participate and help to make this independent, collectively-run progressive bookstore and community education center a strong and viable resource.

Call Gary Zabel, Volunteer Coordinator 497-9934

Book Donations Always Welcome

Radical books, journals, posters, etc. are always welcome, for resale in our store and to build our non-circulating radical library. Donations (of any kind . . . books, money, etc.) are tax deductible. You can drop off books anytime during store hours, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Cash Donations Welcome as Well

(tax deductible)

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____

☐ Check enclosed payable to Lucy Parsons Center

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Hours:

Mon - Sat 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun closed

Directions: We are three doors from the Central Square Red Line T-stop, on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue where River Street, Western Avenue, and Magazine Street all converge, turning into Prospect Street.

